



University of  
Connecticut



New England

**Invasive Plant Center**

To: Committee on Environment, Connecticut General Assembly

From: Mary E. Musgrave

Professor and Head, Department of Plant Science, University of Connecticut  
and Chairman, Connecticut Invasive Plants Council  
and co-director, New England Invasive Plant Center  
Email [mary.musgrave@uconn.edu](mailto:mary.musgrave@uconn.edu); phone (860) 486-2925

Date: March 8, 2010

Written testimony RE:

**Raised Bill No. 5320, "An Act Concerning the Enforcement of Prohibited Actions Concerning Certain Invasive Plants"**

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and other members of the Environment Committee:  
My name is Mary Musgrave, and I want to thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of Bill No. 5320, "An Act Concerning the Enforcement of Prohibited Actions Concerning Certain Invasive Plants." My purpose today is to explain the reasons the Connecticut Invasive Plants Council recommends adoption of this bill and to encourage your support of the language within it.

The Invasive Plants Council was established and operates pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 22a-381 through 22a-381d and has the following responsibilities: developing and conducting initiatives to educate the public about the problems created by invasive plants in lakes, forests and other natural habitats; publishing and updating a list of invasive or potentially invasive plants; and supporting state agencies in conducting research into invasive plant control, including the development of new non-invasive plant varieties and methods for controlling existing species.

As Chairman of the Invasive Plants Council I represent 9 appointed members who work in the government, the nursery industry, and environmental groups. Much of the time spent by the Council has been devoted to discussing how the current laws can be implemented. Inspection roles for the Dept. of Agriculture (for aquatic plants being sold in pet shops) and CT Agricultural Experiment Station (for plants in nurseries) are now clearly described by legislation. The situation governing inspections for aquatic plants being carried by boats and boat trailers has been less clear. This year's bill, no. 5320, is critical because it gives conservation officers the power to enforce the state's Invasive Plant laws (22a-381 through 22a-381d). This enforcement piece will be especially helpful in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive plants from waterway to waterway.

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for your continued interest in invasive plants as one of many important environmental concerns, and for your support of prior recommendations from the Invasive Plants Council.